THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government has instituted a study through the Institute of Rural Management, Anand to assess the utility and effectiveness of various handloom development schemes which are being implemented by Government. These handloom development schemes are designed, *inter alia*, to removing the problems of handloom weavers. The current study will therefore naturally be conducted with reference to the problems of handloom weavers also. The following methodology is being adopted in the conduct of the study:—

(i) Collection of basic/field data from State Handloom authorities through two sets of detailed questionnaires.

(ii) Three case studies, one each on a 'successful' and 'not no successful' state, and one in the North-Eastern region focussing on the following aspects:—

1. Interface between the organisations and the weavers;

2. Interface between the organisations and the consumers/users of the products; and

3 Broad study of these organisations—both structure and processes.

Credit Policy

2494. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tightening of credit policy has been announced by the R.B I Governor as reported in the Times of India dated the 18th October, 1987 and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether this policy will affect the 'loan melas' organised in various States and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India announced the credit policy for the second half of 1987-88 on October 17, 1987. The main objective of credit policy is to meet the credit requirements of agriculture, industry, exports and at the same time preventing excessive monetary expansion keeping in view the need for containing inflationary pressures. With a view to ensuring that the bank credit is not utilised for speculative activities in sensitive commodities, the requirements of minimum margins have been enhanced. The following main changes have been effected in the credit policy for the current busy season:

(i) Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) required to be maintaitned by the scheduled commercial banks with the Reserve Bank was increased from 9.5 per cent of their net demand and time liabilities to 10 per cent with effect from October 24, 1987.

(ii) Effective from October 19, 1987, the minimum margins in respect of paddy/rice, pulses, and other foodgrains (excluding wheat) were raised across the board by 15 percentage points.

(iii) The base for determining export refinance limits available to banks was retained unchanged at 100 per cent of the increase in the monthly average export credit in 1984 This ensures that the export refinance limits remains higher by about Rs. 430 crores than if the base had been brought forward to the monthly average level of export credit 1986

(b) The above credit policy will not affect the flow of credit to weaker sections of the society, which will continue to be regulated in accordance with existing guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India in the matter.

Representation from aerated water manufacturers

2495. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation has been received from the aerated

water manufacturers of the country urging that they be exempted from the purview of Notification No. 223/87-CE dated 22-9-1987 withdrawing the benefit of duty exemption scheme to small scale manufacturers of specified goods, and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation has been considered but it has not been found possible to agree to the request contained therein.

Rajghat Inter-state Project

2496 SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI.
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the tatal cost of Rajghat inter-State Project and how much cost the Madhya Pradesh Government has to bear on this project;

(b) by when the Rajghat Project is likely to be completed and what are the bottlenecks for its completion as per schedule programme;

(c) what is the area to be benefited by this project in Madhya Pradesh and whether the canal system is being constructed with such a time schedule that Madhya Pradesh will start using its share of water as per schedule; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for non-completion of canals in Madhya Pradesh and what steps are being taken to remove this bottleneck?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The approved cost of inter-State Rajghat Dam is about Rs. 123 crores. This is targetted for completion by March, 1992. The Madhya Pradesh Government has to bear 50 per cent of the cost.

(c) and (d) An area of over 1 1 lakh hectares will progressively get irrigation benefit subject to the availability of resources in the next Plan.

Child Labour

2497. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children, who deserve to be in schools, are employed all over the country in jobs which only adults can handle; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curb the meance of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA). (a) It It is true that there are a large number of child workers in the country engaged in various occupations.

(b) To tackle the problem of child labour Government have enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which prohibits the employment of children below 14 years in certain specified occupations and processes and seeks to regulate the working conditions of children in employments in which children are not prohibited from working. The Government has also formulated a National Policy on Child Labour which inter-alia provides for effective implementation of the legal provisions relating to child labour; focussing of general welfare and development programmes for the benefit of child labour and their families, and the taking up of projects in ten areas of concentration of child labour to provide welfare inputs like education, health care, skill development etc. to the working children.

Import of pistols for Para-military and Police Forces

2498. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pistols for the use of para-military and police forecs